

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-05 OMB-01

SS-15 AGR-10 AID-05 L-03 /091 W

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R 041821Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3484

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 11995

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UK

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 1977 NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION

PLAN: UNITED KINGDOM

REF: (A) STATE 139804, (B) LONDON A-978, 12/5/74

1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES: THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM OF THE ./S HAS ALREADY BEEN REACHED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. BRITISH GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS (SEE REF B) ARE COMMITTED TO AND GENERALLY CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER THE PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING AND TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS. THEY CONTINUE TO BE EFFECTIVE IN SUPPORTING OUR MORE IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE OF THE INTERDICTION AND DETERRENT OF ILLICIT TRAFFIC AND PRODUCTION OF DRUGS
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DESTINED FOR THE US.

2. STATE OF PROBLEM: (A) BRITAIN'S PRIMARY SIGNIFICANCE AS FAR AS THE US IS CONCERNED IS AS A TRANSIT POINT FOR ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN HASHISH, HASHISH OIL AND COCAINE. MOST OF THIS TRAFFICKING DOES NOT INVOLVE BRITISH NATIONALS AND MUCH OF IT IS RESTRICTED TO AIRPORT TRANSITS. HASHISH ARRIVES FROM PAKISTAN OR AFGHANISTAN DIRECT, OR FROM NORTH AFRICA VIA PARIS, AND PASSES THROUGH LONDON TO THE /LS OFTEN VIA MONTREAL OR VANCOUVER. COCAINE TRANSITS LONDON FROM SOUTH AMERICA (COLOMBIA PARTICULARLY).

(B) LOCAL PRODUCTION OF AMPHETAMINES IS A GROWING PROBLEM IN BRITAIN, BUT BRITISH AMPHETAMINES HAVE NOT YET BEEN EXPORTED TO THE US.

(C) LOCAL DRUG ABUSE THOUGH GROWING IN NEW DIRECTIONS REMAINS MINOR COMPARED WITH THE PROBLEMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THE USE OF HASHISH AND CANNABIS HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, WHILE THAT OF COCAINE, AMPHETAMINES AND BARBITURATES HAS GROWN CONSIDERABLY. HEROIN USAGE, WITH JUST UNDER 2,000 REGISTERED USERS, REMAINS FAIRLY CONSTANT. THE GROWTH IN USE OF AMPHETAMINES AND BARBITURATES IS CAUSING THE GOVERNMENT GREAT CONCERN. ON MAY 1, 1975, BROMO-STP (4-0ROMO-2 LET. 5 DIMETHOXY-AMPHETAMINE) WAS DECLARED A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE. ITS PRODUCERS WERE ABLE TO SWITCH TO MANUFACTURE OF RELATED SUBSTANCES WHICH ARE STILL UNCONTROLLED. THIS HAS PROMPTED THE HOME OFFICE WORKING WITH THE CENTRAL DRUGS UNIT TO ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP A GENERIC DESCRIPTION OF AMPHETAMINES FOR INSCRIPTION UNDER THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT 1971. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS WOULD NECESSITATE A WIDE RANGE OF EXCEPTIONS FOR DRUGS NOT CONSIDERED AS PROBLEMS. IN ADDITION, THE CENTRAL DRUGS UNIT IS ATTEMPTING TO MONITOR THE SUPPLY OF PRECURSORS. THEY HAVE BEEN REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL IN GAINING DRUG COMPANY COOPERATION EVEN THOUGH MOST OF THESE SUBSTANCES HAVE WIDESPREAD INDUSTRIAL USES. BARBITURATES WHICH ARE NOT YET CONTROLLED UNDER THE 1971 ACT, ARE INCREASINGLY BEING ABUSED. THE GOVERNMENT IS TRYING THROUGH VOLUNTARY MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE THE MEDICAL

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PROFESSION TO CUT BACK ON THE PRESCRIPTION OF THESE DRUGS. IN MARCH 1975, CURB (CAMPAIGN ON USE AND RESTRICTION OF BARBITURATES) WAS FORMED AS A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION (WITH FUNDING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY, DHSS) TO LOBBY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION ON THIS ISSUE. IN ADDITION, THE SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, AGAIN FUNDED BY DHSS, HAS BEEN FORMED TO ALERT THE PUBLIC TO THE DANGER OF BARBITURATE ABUSE.

3. PROGRAM CONSTRAINTS: WITH ONE EXCEPTION, THERE
ARE NO SUBSTANTIVE CONSTRAINTS OPERATING IN BRITAIN
AGAINST THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR PROGRAM OBJECTIVES.
THE EXCEPTION IS THE BUDGETARY CONSTRAINT PLACED ON
THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE (FCO) THIS

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SS-15 AGR-10 AID-05 L-03 /091 W

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R 041821Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3485

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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FISCAL YEAR WHICH RESULTED IN TERMINATION OF BRITAIN'S
CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN FUND ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL
(UN/DAC). THIS CUT IS THE RESULT OF THE GENERALLY
DEPRESSED STATE OF THE BRITISH ECONOMY AND REDUCED
GOVERNMENT SPENDING IN A VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DOMESTIC FIELDS. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THIS TO BE
A LONG TERM PROBLEM, AND BELIEVE IT MAY BE POSSIBLE

TO RESTORE THE UK CONTRIBUTION NEXT YEAR.

4. STATEMENT OF GOALS TO BE ACHIEVED WITHIN FY77:
 - A. REINSTITUTION OF BRITIAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO UNFDAC.
 - B. BRITISH RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL AMENDING THE SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS AND THE PSYCHOTROPIC CONVENTION.
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- C. ENHANCEMENT OF LOCAL ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES BY PROVIDING AT LEAST ONE DEA TRAINING INSTITUTE EACH YEAR.
- D. INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEMS OF INTER-NATIONAL DRUG ABUSE ON PART OF UK POLICY-MAKERS.

5. PROGRAMS IN SUPPORT OF GOALS:

- (A) WE HAVE ALREADY ACTIVELY LOBBIED HMG CONCERNING THEIR DECISION NOT TO CONTRIBUTE TO UNFDAC IN 1975-76. IN REPLY THE FCO STATED THAT THE DECISION WAS MUCH REGRETTED BUT IRREVERSIBLE FOR THIS YEAR. WE ARE CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE RENEWED PARTICIPATION NEXT YEAR IN OUR DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS WITH THE PERTINENT OFFICES IN THE FCO. WE ALSO PLAN TO APPROACH THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS ON THIS MATTER IN OCTOBER PRIOR TO THE PREPARATION OF NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET.
- (B) WE ARE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE HOME OFFICE AND THE FCO ON THE QUESTION OF RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL AMENDING THE SINGLE CONVENTION AND THE PSYCHOTROPIC CONVENTION. BOTH HAVE STATED THAT HMG IS COMMITTED TO RATIFICATION OF BOTH PROTOCOLS. DELAYS HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY DEFINITIONAL PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE CONTROL OF AMPHETAMINES AND BARBITURATES. AS NOTED ABOVE, THESE ARE NOT CONSIDERED CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES UNDER BRITISH LAW. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE BRITISH PROGRESS TOWARD RATIFICATION.
- (C) THE FIRST DEA INTERNATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE TO BE HELD IN BRITAIN TOOK PLACE JUNE 16-27 AT EXETER. THIRTY-FOUR SENIOR AND MIDDLE GRADE BRITISH PROVINCIAL POLICE OFFICERS AND SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATED. THIS FULFILLED OUR PRIMARY GOAL AS SET IN THE FY76 ACTION PLAN. REACTION TO THE COURSE WAS OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORABLE. DEA HAS ALREADY BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE ANOTHER COURSE LATER THIS YEAR (FULL REPORT ON EXETER COURSE FOLLOWS BY SEPAIR). THE FAVORABLE REACTION TO THIS FIRST COURSE LEADS US TO BELIEVE WE WILL BE ABLE TO DEVELOP REGULAR SCHEDULE OF THESE COURSES. THIS WILL HELP TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL OF UP-GRADING BRITISH ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES. IT WILL ALSO IMPROVE OUR ALREADY EFFECTIVE LINES OF COMMUNICATION.

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TION AND COOPERATION WITH THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES.
(D) WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE BRITISH POLICY-MAKERS
IN HOME OFFICE, FCO AND DHSS WITH COPIES OF DEA AND
DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL PUBLICITY, SUCH AS CONGRESSIONAL
PRESENTATIONS, AS PART OF OUR EFFORTS TO INCREASE THEIR
AWARENESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS PROBLEM.

6. SELF-HELP INDICATORS:

(A) AS STATED ABOVE, THE UK HAS NOT YET RATIFIED THE
AMENDING PROTOCOL TO THE SINGLE CONVENTION OR THE
PSYCHOTROPIC CONVENTION. HMG IS, HOWEVER, COMMITTED
TO RATIFICATION AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR EARLY
ACTION.
(B) UK COOPERATES FULLY IN EXTRADITION AND EXPULSION
OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS.
(C) THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT 1971 IS THE BASIC DRUG
ENFORCEMENT LAW IN THE UK. IT IS CONSIDERED BY BRITISH
LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES AND US DEA AND CUSTOMS
OFFICIALS TO BE SATISFACTORILY STRICT. ITS ENFORCE-
MENT IS CONSIDERED ACTIVE ENOUGH TO HAVE DETERRENT
EFFECT ON POTENTIAL DRUG TRAFFICKERS.
(D) AS EXPLAINED ABOVE, THE UK FOR BUDGETARY REASONS
NO LONGER CONTRIBUTES TO UNFDAC. IT IS OUR GOAL TO
REVERSE THIS DECISION. WE HOPE FCO WILL DECIDE TO
RENEW ITS CONTRIBUTION IN FY77 AT THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL
FIGURE OF 50,000 POUNDS.
(E) SEIZURE AND ARREST STATISTICS AS COLLECTED BY
CENTRAL DRUGS UNIT AND POLICE ARE NOT AVAILABLE. HM
CUSTOMS STATISTICS FOR ARRESTS AND SEIZURES IN CALENDAR

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SS-15 AGR-10 AID-05 L-03 /091 W
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R 041821Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3486
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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YEAR 1974 WERE SUBMITTED IN LONDON 1312. SEIZURES
AND ARRESTS HAVE BEEN TRENDING UPWARDS IN COCAINE,
HASHISH, BARBITURATES AND AMPHETAMINES. THE ONLY DECLINE
BEING IN HEROIN AND CANNABIS.

7. SIGNIFICANT AND POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS DURING
PERIOD JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30, 1975:
(A) AS CITED ABOVE,
ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE ON USE AND
RESTRICTION OF BARBITURATES (CURB) AND HEALTH EDUCATION
COUNCIL REFLECT INCREASED CONCERN OVER GROWING
PROBLEM OF BARBITURATE ABUSE.
(B) IN ADDITION, THE CENTRAL RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT,
WHICH IS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL FORENSIC
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LABORATORY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CENTRAL DRUGS
UNIT SET UP IN LATE APRIL THE SCIENTIFIC DRUG
INTELLIGENCE UNIT. THIS UNIT WILL CONCENTRATE ITS
EFFORTS IN RESEARCH AND IDENTIFICATION OF CONTROLLED
NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES.

(C) THE HOME OFFICE HAS ALSO ISSUED NEW REGULATIONS
REQUIRING CABINETS OF MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE STORAGE
OF CONTROLLED DRUGS IN PHARMACIES. HISTORICALLY,
VERY UNSOPHISTICATED METHODS HAVE BEEN USED IN
PHARMACY DRUGS ROBBERIES AND IT IS HOPED THESE NEW
CABINETS WILL ACT AS A DETERRENT TO THIS TYPE OF
THEFT.

8. ANNEXES 2 AND 4 AS REQUESTED S/NM MEMO OF JUNE 17

FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: SNAR, UK
To: STATE
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006